

Obituary for **Richard Edward DesChenes**
(7/14/1946 – 2/14/2022)



Richard E. DesChenes, 76, of Williston Florida, passed away February 14, 2022. A small, private service was held at his home.

Born in Webster, MA, on July 14, 1946, he was the son of the late Andre E. DesChenes and the late Teresa DesChenes. The family relocated to St Petersburg, FL, in the mid 1950's. After graduating from St Petersburg High School he enlisted into the USAF and was based at Kelly Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas, as a technical and electronics instructor.

In civilian life Richard continued his education, went to work in the high-tech industries including Honeywell, Southwest Research, and Motorola. His quest for knowledge was amazing. He wrote technical papers; was on advisory committees for space-related projects; and wrote articles for the Gainesville Sun. After Retiring he moved to Williston, FL, and built his own home. Richard was the primary authority on "U.S. Army Balloon Corps Operations through 1922", with the largest database in the country, which he made available to anyone who was looking for information or a relative who may have served in the Balloon Corps. He recently published the second edition of his book: "The Insignia, Uniforms, & Equipment of the US. Army Balloon Corps: 1917-1922".

There are so many more stories and moments that could fill volumes. Richard was intelligent, knowledgeable in many areas, well written, a critical thinker, and a loving father.

Richard is survived by his brothers Paul DesChenes of Parker, Colorado, Steven DesChenes of New Port Richey, Florida, his sister Susan DesChenes Magario of Webster, Massachussets, son Howard DesChenes of Brooklyn, New York, daughters Venica Riojas of San Antonio, Texas, and Rebecca DesChenes of Houston, Texas. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and his life partner Lisa Haymaker of Williston, Florida.